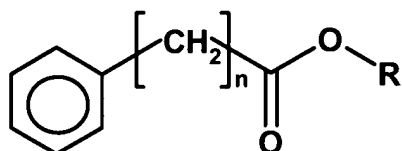


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.-13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) Topical composition comprising at least one HDAC inhibitor in combination with a retinoid and a cosmetically or pharmaceutically acceptable excipient or diluent, wherein the HDAC inhibitor is a compound of the formula:



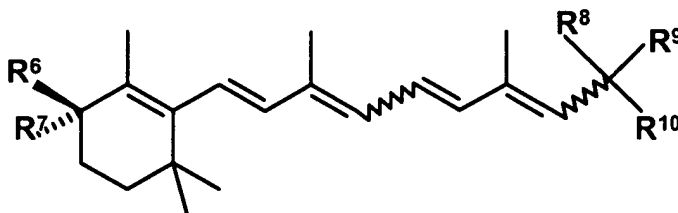
wherein

R is hydrogen or a C₁-C₃₀ hydrocarbon residue and

n is an integer of 1 to 5.

15. (Previously Presented) Topical composition according to claim 14, wherein R is hydrogen, a C₄-C₂₀ alkyl group or a C₄-C₂₀ alkenyl group.

16. (Previously Presented) Topical composition according to claim 14, wherein the retinoid is a compound of the formula



wherein R^6 and R^7 are independently of each other hydrogen or hydroxy or R^6 and R^7 together form an oxygen atom

R^8 and R^9 are hydrogen or R^8 and R^9 together form an oxygen atom

R^{10} is hydrogen, hydroxy or a residue OR^{11}

R^{11} is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl (preferably C_1 - C_6 alkyl), C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl (preferably C_2 - C_6 alkenyl), C_6 - C_{20} aryl, C_7 - C_{20} alkylaryl or a residue $-C(O)-R^{12}$

R^{12} is C_1 - C_{20} alkyl (preferably C_1 - C_6 alkyl) or C_2 - C_{20} alkenyl (preferably C_2 - C_6 alkenyl).

17. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the composition contains the HDAC inhibitor in a concentration of 0.001 to 50 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

18. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~6~~17, wherein the HDAC inhibitor is present in a concentration of 0.01 to 1 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

19. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the retinoid is present in a concentration of 0.001 to 50 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

20. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~8~~19, wherein the retinoid is present in a concentration of 0.1 to 15 wt.-%, based on the weight of the composition.

21. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~1~~14, wherein the ratio of the HDAC inhibitor to the retinoid is from 30:1 to 1:30, based on the weight.

22. (Currently Amended) Topical composition according to claim ~~11~~14, which is a cosmetic composition.

23. (Withdrawn) A method of providing a cosmetic effect which comprises applying a cosmetically effective amount of a topical composition as in claim 14 to a skin area in need of the cosmetic effect.

24. (Withdrawn) Method according to claim 23, wherein the cosmetic effect is treatment or prophylaxis of wrinkles or dry skin or sensitive skin or any symptoms caused by negative developments of the physiological homeostasis of healthy skin, promotion of hair growth, protection from hair loss, a thickening of the epidermis, anti-acne, the inhibition of senescence of skin cells, prevention or treatment of photodamage, prevention or treatment of oxidative stress phenomena, prevention or treatment of cellulite, prevention or treatment of pigmentation disorders and/or even the skin tone, prevention and treatment of disturbances in ceramide and lipid synthesis, prevention of excess sebum production, reduction of activities of matrix metallo proteases or other proteases in the skin, treatment and prevention of inflammatory skin conditions including atopic eczema, polymorphic light eruption, psoriasis, vertiligo, prevention and treatment of itchy or irritated skin.